Brighton October 10th 1851
Friday

My dear "friend".

If "usage" confers a social right (as it establishes sometimes, a legal one) I claim the privilege of thus addressing you; for when spoken of to me by your own family, & when referred to by myself to them, this appellation is the one by which alone you are designated.

But I must not venture now to descant upon any social interests, for large indeed would be the theme; I trust that Mary in her correspondence with you has told you all, (& that however would be impossible.) the great gratification we have experienced in being privileged to entertain five of your family for five weeks as beloved guests, and I proceed at once to the special purpose of a hurried letter.

Before your party left us, Miss Weston read to us, your account, I believe, of Mr. Garrison's feelings respecting Mr. Grant's article in the M. Advertiser, & ~~the~~ W.L.G.'s erroneous notion, as you most correctly judged, of Mr. G's real state of mind. - I came to this place yesterday from

Bristol on a professional visit, & passing thro' London, ~~paid a visit~~ made a call upon Mr. Grant & had some interesting conversation with him, I thought it well to tell him the first ~~idea~~ view Mr. Garrison entertained in reference to his article. He was really pained that W.L.G. could suspect him of any insincerity or concealment. He said that he gave W.L.G. credit for more tact & penetration than to suppose that, however he might differ from the M. Advr, there was any want of straightforwardness, or reservation in the article in question. "The only dispute Mr Grant ever had with Scoble was the present one, & they had never conversed upon the subject of it. He was severing a private friendship by the expression of his opinion upon Scoble's course, & whatever he had said about W.L.G's ~~[illegible]~~ religious views, he had said under a conviction of its correctness, & that he had no intention of returning to ~~them~~ subject again."

I was much comforted to hear the ~~[illegible]~~ advice you & others had given to Mr. Garrn on this point. One of his cut & slash articles, hinting even that Mr. Grant was a traitor to the cause he has so recently espoused, would probably have entirely detached Mr. G's interest from it. He is doing for *your* phase of the A.S. cause, what no influential public writer in England has ever yet done: he is creating a public opinion in this country in favor of the "*American Anti Slavery Society*," & among the very few persons with here who really care two straws about the Amn. Slave, he is calling out, in some of them, deep & earnest feeling. It is a great error in our American friends if they suppose that all here who are anxious to help on the cause, are versed in the mysteries of "New Organization" history. You give us credit for a degree of knowledge not possessed by us, & efforts to teach A.S. *grammar* to those who are learning the *alphabet* will perplex & discourage, instead of enlightening: You may safely trust to there being *enough* (tho' few certainly,) prepared & willing to attack & repel mischievous & dishonest efforts when they venture to come *fairly* into view.

Of the faithlessness of some, you can judge as well as we, for as amiable, Sturge, feeble & the prime movers in the B. & F. A-S. Soci.: but there are others you are likely to misunderstand.

I am delighted that the opportunity I have so much longed for, has at length occurred in *Bristol* for efficiently showing up the mischief aimed at, & accomplished, by the Quaker faction in the B. & F. A. S. S. An earlier attempt to do this would have been worse than a mere failure: in this warfare, the M. Adv^r is a most powerful ally; trebling every single feeble effort of ours. As far as he has as yet gone under instruction, Mr Grand is quite sound.

Last June I found him believing Mr Garrison to be a man of depraved character, — a scoffing infidel, — an unfortunate obstruction in the way of emancipation! But now, (having placed such confidence in the knowledge & honesty of his informers as to be induced to examine fairly into the question) you observe how far he has advanced! He here is fully satisfied of the preeminent excellence of Mr G's character, — is acquainted with his labours, — & he is quite willing to cooperate with him. He is now beginning to learn something about the manner in which the B. & F. A. S. Soc. have been induced & enabled to obstruct the cause: you will see in the M. Ad^r of Sept. 7th the insertion of the letters

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2d) from Jos. Sturge & Geo. Thompson, which I sent to him, & which he immediately re-published. He sees clearly, that Quakerism is at the bottom of the conduct of the Broad St. Com: & he will not fail in time to let the public see it too. Bear in mind that Mr. G. is a man of, as I believe, a religious cast of mind, that he is quite orthodox, that, however absurd it may appear to H. C. Wright & others, he firmly believes that attendance upon public worship, & the rational observance of a day of rest are essential to his own spiritual comfort & improvement, & to that of the community; & yet he advises, & willingly published your "Come outer." No [illegible] Unitarian in this country would have a hundredth part of his influence in advocating the A.S. cause, even had he such a press at his command.

Indeed we cannot afford to lose Mr Grant's powerful & willing help to the cause. A little contretemps occurred while your family were in London, trifling perhaps in ~~reality~~ itself, yet really endangering Mr G's continued personal interest in them, which would, at that time probably, have seriously checked Mr. G's A.S. studies

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I threw myself into the breach more than our your friends were aware of, & every thing was after a time composed without leaving any unpleasant feeling. Do not, at present at least, say anything of this, for I think Miss Weston felt the matter painfully.

I purpose returning on Monday, & have promised Mr. Grant to spend an hour or two with him.

Mr G's labours are enormous. he has the entire management of that large daily paper, whose circulation is immense. The first of the leading articles, he always writes: & I believe he feels the great moral responsibility of having so powerful an engine, - for good, or for evil, to wield. I am really surprised that he is able, & willing to devote so much attention as he does give, to the Slavery question. It must not be expected of him at once to go deeply into ~~the~~ a subject so really new to him. He will treat points sometimes with a superficial knowledge of them; but I believe his feelings are right, & his intentions sincere - I think a Liberator

& Standard sent occasionally, if not regularly to him, would be usefully employed.

This then is the chief topic I was desirous of mentioning to you, & I trust you will make Mr. Garrison treat Mr. ~~Garrison~~ Grant as an honest friend of the cause, if not so informed as we wish him to be, until he clearly sees faithlessness to it. At the same time Mr. Grant I believe, would be as well pleased to be ~~sat~~ set right, in a kindly manner, as any of us can wish for him to be.

I travelled up to London with G. Thompson an & my opponent Robt. Charleton: he is a kind hearted, charitable (as regards money) most well meaning, weak man: believing whatever Jos. Sturge or J. Scoble would tell him, & thoroughly Quaker. Our conversation was most amusing, & our parting then most affectionate. I made him read some of the Liberator. He soon pointed out to me as a proof of W. L. G's infidelity a passage where the

Jews who crucified Christ, are spoken of as more guiltless than Americans. — I can only reply that my opinion was the same —

Emma & Mr Bates were here last Saturday Sunday & part of Monday. As soon as I knew of their movements I wrote to my friend Mrs Ames, whose daughter I am now visiting to call: she did so on Monday, but Mr Bates with a "light young lady" (as described by the waiter) had returned to London — This morning I have heard from Emma who is again at [illegible], & I fear I shall miss seeing her. — I will inclose ~~another letter of his likely to interest~~ a copy of my letter to Mr Chas [illegible], which he tells me is to appear. you. — Our Bazaar exhibition was excellent. The Quakers, one or two excepted, kept entirely aloof from inspecting the articles. I am trying hard to get up a conspiracy in their camp & hope next year we shall have some "come-outers" as regards, to Slavery from their ranks.

I send a Br. Adv. of the 7th of Sept. —

Post time is near, & several letters have arrived requiring reading & I fear answering.

Believe me, my dear Miss Weston

Sincerely Yours

J. B. Estlin

Mr May must forgive any apparent neglect of him: I am quite unequal to half the letters I wish to write

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